

Message Text

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SUB: COTTON--METTINGS OF IIC AND ICAC

REF: STATE 169613

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON (IIC) MET NOVEMBER 7-8 IN ABIDJAN. TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED - - THE EFFORT TO GAIN NEW MEMBERS, AND THE UNDP (HARRAR) REPORT ON COTTON RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION. THE DISCUSSION OF EFFORTS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP CENTERED ON WAYS IN WHICH WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN COTTON COULD BECOME MEMBERS, GIVEN THEIR LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES. IT WAS AGREED TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING THE EEC/ACP TO HELP FINANCE THEIR MEMBERSHIP. ON THE HARRAR STUDY THE IIC AGREED TO MAKE A STATEMENT SUPPORTING IIC AND ICAC PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDY.

2. THE 34TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ICAC) WAS INAUGURATED ON NOVEMBER

10 BY IVORIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION DONA FOLOGO, WHO EXPRESSED THE GOIC'S INTEREST IN MARKET STABILIZATION MECHANISMS SUCH AS BUFFER STOCKS.

3. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE BEGAN ON MONDAY AFTERNOON WITH PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES GIVING PROJECTIONS FOR ANTICIPATED SUPPLY AND DEMAND. GENERALLY, MANY COUNTRIES REPORTED SHARP DECLINES IN PRODUCTION, WHILE MANY CONSUMING COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT THE TEXTILE RECESSION HAD BOTTOMED OUT. SECOND DAY'S DISCUSSION CONSIDERED REPORT OF EXPERT GROUP WHICH MET IN WASHINGTON LAST SPRING. MAJOR EMPHASIS WAS ON DISCUSSION OF BUFFER STOCK CONCEPT WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THEIR USUAL ROLES. DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAY.

4. IN SECOND MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE, SOVIET DELEGATION MADE A STATEMENT EXPRESSING ITS VIEWS ON ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF ICAC. STATEMENT CENTERED ON THREE POINTS: A) THE STANDING COMMITTEE, WHOSE WORK THEY CLAIM IS INEFFECTIVE AND UNREPRESENTATIVE SINCE ONLY ONE-THIRD OF ICAC MEMBERS NEED BE PRESENT IN ORDER TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. THEY ALSO QUESTIONED LOCATION OF THE SECRETARIAT IN "AN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION OF ONE OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES", I.E. THE USDA. B) DOCUMENTS AND THE LACK OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE. THE SOVDEL CLAIMED THAT THE ICAC IS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND WHICH DOES NOT HAVE RUSSIAN AS ONE OF ITS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. THE DOCUMENTS OF THE ICAC ARE ALWAYS ISSUED LATE AND OF LITTLE USE TO THE SOVIETS ANYWAY SINCE THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN RUSSIAN. MOREOVER, THEY CONSIST OF LITTLE MORE THAN STATISTICS, AND THE RUSSIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ANALYTICAL WORK ON THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON SITUATION. C) THE BUDGET OF ICAC WHICH THEY SAY IS TOO HIGH IN RELATION TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING LACK OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE.

5. SOVDEL CONCLUDED ITS PRESENTATION BY SAYING THAT IF THESE PROBLEMS WERE NOT CORRECTED, THE RUSSIANS WOULD PROPOSED THAT A NEW INTERNATIONAL COTTON ORGANIZATION BE ESTABLISHED UNDER UNCTAD SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR LEAD AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ZINC. THIS WAS SURPRISE ENDING, AS SOVDEL HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD USDL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICAC THAT IF PROBLEMS WERE NOT RESOLVED, USSR WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ICAC.

6. PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO DEFER DISCUSSION UNTIL LATER IN WEEK TO GIVE TIME FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION SINCE PROPOSALS ARE SO FAR-REACHING. E

ALSO SUGGESTED THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN ON THESE RUSSIAN PROPOSALS IN THIS PLENARY SESSION, BUT THAT THEY BE REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON. THIS PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY JAPANESE AND SPANISH DELEGATIONS AND WAS ADOPTED BY STEERING COMMITTEE.

7. SOVDEL DID NOT REPEAT NOT RASIE CHINESE REPRESENTATION ISSUE, AND NEITHER THEY NOR ANY OTHER DELEGATION HAVE GIVEN INDICATION THEY INTEND TO DO SO.
SMITH

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